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The gw Hatchet

An Independent Student Newspaper
www.gwhatchet.com**Storyteller**

Writer Daniel Vilmure talks (work)shop and unveils the legend of Lenthall.

In the Spotlight, p. 8

**Taking issue**

Women's response to Clinton controversy draws fire.

Opinions, p. 4

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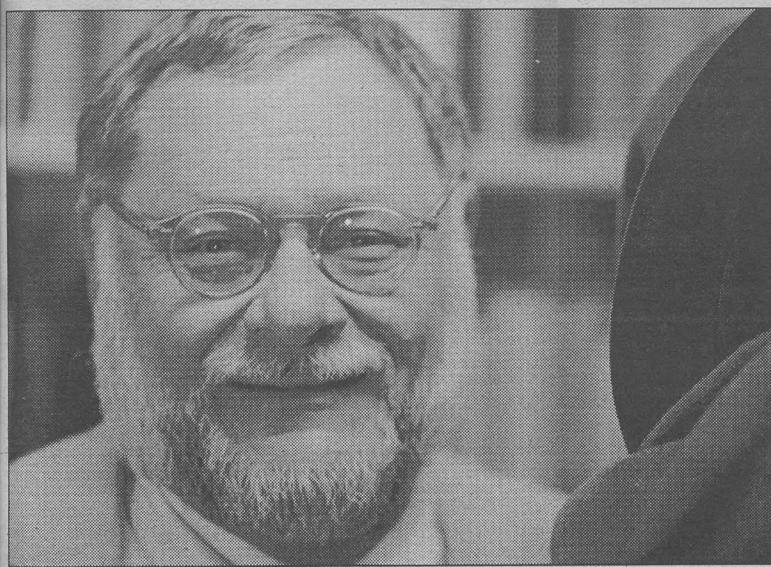
The GW baseball team made the UMBC Retrievers chase down 19 hits in its victory Wednesday.

Sports, p. 14

Vol. 94 No. 61

Serving The George Washington University Community Since 1904

Thursday, April 16, 1998



GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg ponders the state of the University during his tenure.

Trachtenberg assesses state of the University

President endeavors to bring acclaim to GW

by Matt Berger
Asst. News Editor

The dynamic decade of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg's University presidency has seen GW swell from commuter school to institution of international respect.

Expanded facilities, a foray into U.S. News & World Report's Top 50 colleges and developing academic programs have marked GW's transformation.

Trachtenberg arrived at GW from the University of Hartford with the goals of making GW the District's top university — and establishing its national and international renown.

"What we've managed to do in the last decade is make the world aware of the virtues of this institution," Trachtenberg said.

The University lacked "pride of place" 10 years ago, Trachtenberg said.

"I think GW came to love itself," he said. "I don't know when that happened, and I don't know what event brought that to pass."

Trachtenberg said the key to university "self-love" is students and faculty interested in being part of the school's environment.

■ GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg will mark his 10th anniversary at the University Aug. 1.

In a three-part series, The GW Hatchet will explore where the University has gone in the 10 years of his administration, where it is now and where it is headed, through the eyes of GW's president.

Trachtenberg said he now can hold his head high when comparing faculty with other universities.

"The quality of the faculty we get is much stronger (than a decade ago)," he said.

GW departments usually get their first choice when hiring new faculty members, he said. Trachtenberg remembers an instance when a department made offers to two people for one position, and raced to find extra funds when both accepted.

(See TRACHTENBERG, p. 13)

"Perhaps most significantly, it's a student body that is pleased to be here — frequently it includes a large number of whom had GW as their first choice as opposed to a strong safety school," Trachtenberg said.

He said he sees an academically stronger institution now, with a larger, more diverse student body.

Trachtenberg said the University no longer looks over its shoulder at neighboring schools like Georgetown and George Mason universities, and focuses instead on self-improvement.

"We have become more in the direction of," Trachtenberg said. "We are less vulnerable to envy of events at other institutions."

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(See TRACHTENBERG, p. 13)

GW signs on to Internet2

Gore introduces plans for faster computer network

by Becky Neilson
News Editor

GW is one of more than 100 U.S. universities backing a plan to launch a faster, more reliable multimedia network than the current Internet.

The new network could have enormous implications for GW and other research organizations that rely on speedy connections for information and communication with other institutions.

The super-fast Internet2 is part of the Next Generation Internet program, a federal research initiative geared toward networking research and development, high-speed experimental networks and new software applications.

Vice President Al Gore announced Tuesday that several high-tech companies have pledged more than \$500 million in fiber-optic lines, networking equipment and services to get the network up and running.

GW was one of 34 institutions that founded the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development, an organization devoted to the leadership and direction of university networking, said Douglas Gale, GW's assistant vice president for information systems and services.

"This is bleeding-edge stuff," Gale said. "We're really pushing the edge of technology with this."

Internet2 will link GW and the other 120 members of UCAID at 100 times the speed of the current Internet, Gore



Vice President Al Gore

said at a news conference. Proponents bill the network as fast enough to transmit the entire 30-volume Encyclopedia Britannica in about a second.

Gale said the project will speed connections between universities and research groups in its early stages, and eventually progress made with Internet2 will mean higher performance connectivity in every home.

"This is a higher level of connectivity than you can currently find with the Internet, with

voice telephones or with TV," Gale said.

Internet2 will push national networks to a higher level, and

propel GW networking capabilities along with it, Gale said.

"(GW) kind of started from behind," he said. "But when

all this is completed, our network will be as good as or better than any network in the world."

"(The Internet2 project) continues to move the Internet back into the realm of research, where some real strides can be made," said Dan Lavin, senior Internet technology analyst from the research firm Dataquest, who answered questions on CNN Interactive Tuesday.

"We have a two-tier data infrastructure in the United

(See INTERNET2, p. 6)

GW pledges quiet construction

RHA pushes plan for unobtrusive upgrades during exams

by Matt Berger and
Laura Hertzfeld
Hatchet Reporters

Administrators pledged to minimize the noise from technology upgrades in the residence halls during reading days and final exams at a Residence Hall Association meeting Wednesday.

Work is scheduled to continue in student rooms in Munson, Thurston and Fulbright halls through April 29. The administration agreed to confine work to hallways and corridors from April 30 to May 10.

"There will be no hammering or intense noise," said Al Ingle, GW's

associate vice president for business affairs.

"It really bothers me that our education is being compromised for cable," said Courtney Cooley, a Fulbright Hall resident.

Facilities management project manager Jim Hillyard said work will be stopped if students complain.

University administrators met with the RHA executive board before Wednesday's meeting to develop a compromise to keep the upgrades close to schedule without interfering with exams.

University officials said they will meet with RHA members next week to finalize details of the plan.

Administrators said they hope the board will vote to support the compromise, which includes providing alternative study spaces for inconvenienced students.

"We're asking you for a guarantee and you can't give it to us," said Justin Lavella, Munson Hall representative and RHA president-elect. "You are asking us to endorse something we can't endorse."

RHA President Randy Bomze said she appreciates the work the administration has done to help students.

"Giving up eight days of working in the rooms is an incredible thing to do," Bomze said. "I understand

(See RHA, p. 6)

Armed mugger accosts GW student

by Matthew Katz
Hatchet Staff Writer

A GW sophomore was robbed at gunpoint Sunday at around 2 a.m. in front of the Columbia Plaza C building on Virginia Avenue.

The University Police Department has not made an arrest and has posted crime alerts on campus to warn the GW community of the robbery.

A gunman demanded Ari

Senders' wallet as he was walking to his home on the corner of 22nd and F streets from the Columbia Plaza garage.

Senders gave his wallet to the man who immediately ran down Virginia Avenue away from campus.

"He actually came from a small bench area, so he could have caught anyone coming out of the area," Senders said. "I heard him coming up from behind me, so I turned around,

and then he pulled the gun out."

Senders said he asked the robber to drop his wallet and take only the money, but about \$30 in cash, a credit card, his driver's license and a Columbia Plaza parking garage entry card were stolen.

The UPD and the Metropolitan Police Department are jointly investigating the crime, Senders said.

(See UPD, p. 12)

Maryland inmate illuminates life on death row

by Danny Freedman
Hatchet Reporter

"It's very difficult waking up each day with the reality (of the death penalty)"
— Tyrone X.

Gilliam, Maryland death row inmate

About 100 people gathered in Fung Hall Tuesday evening to await a telephone call from death row inmate Tyrone X. Gilliam, the next prisoner slated for execution in Maryland.

Gilliam is one of 14 men on Maryland's death row — he is incarcerated in Baltimore, Md. for murder.

The forum, sponsored by the GW Campaign to End the Death Penalty and the International Socialist Organization, offered a perspective on capital punishment from an inmate who faces it.

"What is it like living each day with the death penalty as a very near possibility?" an audience member asked.

"It's very difficult waking up each day with that reality ... waking up anticipating death every morning," Gilliam said.

"What would you like us to take away from this phone call?" asked another audience member.

"Understand, first and foremost, that I am a human being," Gilliam said.

The conversation steered

toward concerns about capital punishment in the U.S. criminal justice system.

"(The death penalty) is totally racist, biased against the poor, kills innocent people ... it's murder by the state," said Ellie Fingerman, Campaign to End the Death Penalty member and a 1996 GW graduate.

Death penalty opponents said many of the system's ills stem from the racism and socioeconomic biases that run through the American law enforcement and judicial systems.

"In the United States, the

law is not just," Fingerman said. "If you're a white person, if you're rich ... you'll be able to buy yourself a nice Harvard lawyer, and you'll get off with a lighter sentence."

"If you're poor, (you will) get state-appointed attorneys who most of the time (are on) their first capital punishment case. They don't get paid anything and they don't get enough jobs, so it doesn't work," Fingerman said. "It's not equal for everybody in the system."

"There's a saying in the abolitionist community: 'Those without the capital, get the pun-

ishment,'" said graduate student Angela C. Davis, a member of both the Campaign to End the Death Penalty and the ISO.

Jay Nickerson, Gilliam's lawyer, said this partiality in the system represents "legal Lynchings."

"I do not know of one person of the 14 (death row inmates) who deserves to be there. We have seen the opportunity to educate ourselves, and society should open its heart a little," Gilliam said. "It is the race of who's being killed ... that dictates who will receive" capital punishment.

News Briefs

GW AmeriCorps members to offer a helping hand

Hands on D.C. 1998 will bring college students into District neighborhoods to administer much-needed repairs to 50 high schools. About 3,000 volunteers will commit to greening, mulching and renovation projects Saturday.

The event will raise funds for scholarships, according to a press release.

About 30 GW students will participate in the event through the Neighbors Project, said AmeriCorps member Deema Bayrakdar.

AmeriCorps members will lead groups working throughout the city, she added.

"I think it is good for (students) to get involved in their community and become aware of what is going on in D.C.," Bayrakdar said.

The opening rally is at 9 a.m. at Eastern High School, 1700 E. Capital St., N.E. in D.C.

For more information, call Frank Pizzurro at 736-1657.

Hands on D.C. volunteers meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Francis Junior High School, 24th and N streets, N.W.

—Shruti Daté

Correction

The article "Columbian Blues: Students pay for communication gaps with advisors," in the April 13 edition of The GW Hatchet (p.1) should have said Rahul Patel placed out of his Columbian School language requirement during Colonial Inauguration before his freshman year began, and that he earned credits at Columbia University during the summer of his junior year.

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Cronkite urges truth over profit

by Andrew Ganz
Hatchet Staff Writer

Walter Cronkite has witnessed some of the greatest moments of the 20th century during his 82 years as a newsman, and has stamped these events with the imprint of his voice.

Cronkite addressed a packed house at the National Press Club Monday in the final installment of the four-part Kalb Report on ethics in journalism.

Previous discussions in the Kalb Report series have featured panels of as many as a dozen guests, but Cronkite was the only guest to share the stage with Marvin Kalb, a visiting scholar at GW and former CBS News correspondent.

"I think if you have Walter Cronkite, you don't need anybody else," Kalb said.

Nicknamed "Old Iron Pants" for his grace under pressure, Cronkite has been part of the media world since his college days, serving stints as a college reporter, radio sports broadcaster and CBS anchor.

Cronkite reminisced Monday about the days he spent reporting from the battlefields of Vietnam in the 1960s, and recounted the thrill of talking the nation through the landing of the first man on the moon.

But at the center of the discussion was state of the news industry and the role of ethics in journalism.

"The reason there is a lesser degree of ethics in journalism is due to news organizations putting a priority on their profit rather than the truth," Cronkite said.

Organizations must profit, however, and they often find themselves pandering to the public, Cronkite said.

Cronkite said the media's main purpose is to tell people what they need to know, not just what they want to know - a tenet he said jour-

nalists often stray from.

"Today's media does not adhere to that," Cronkite said. "That is the reason for the great decline in quality journalism."

The lack of quality news reporting leads to an ill-informed citizenry, he said.

"Without that information (which good reporting provides), citizens cannot be active members of the democracy," Cronkite said. "We're already not a democracy, we're an autocracy ruled by the well-informed."

The press bears much of the blame for the decline in civic participation, but the American people are accountable because news organizations reflect the society they report, he said.

Cronkite and Kalb discussed the media's coverage of scandals surrounding President Bill Clinton.

Cronkite said the media should not become involved in the personal lives of public officials unless the story affects their performance in the public realm.

"Although Clinton's behavior may be crude, there is no evidence that

it has affected his job," Cronkite said.

One senior graduating with a journalism degree asked Cronkite to give a piece of advice to a beginning reporter.

"Get a job," Cronkite said.

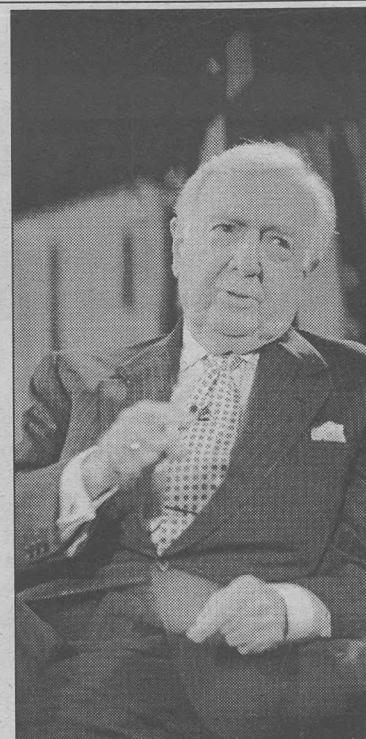
Kalb and Cronkite infused the evening's discussion with humor, joking about Cronkite's status as a living legend in his field.

"When did journalism begin slipping?" Kalb asked.

"I guess the day I left television," Cronkite answered.

"What do you think the solution to the problem is?" Kalb asked.

"If they just put you and I in charge Marv, all of the problems would be solved," Cronkite said.



Jay Crystal/asst. photo editor
Former CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite reflects on the ethics of journalism as chief guest of the Kalb Report at the National Press Club.

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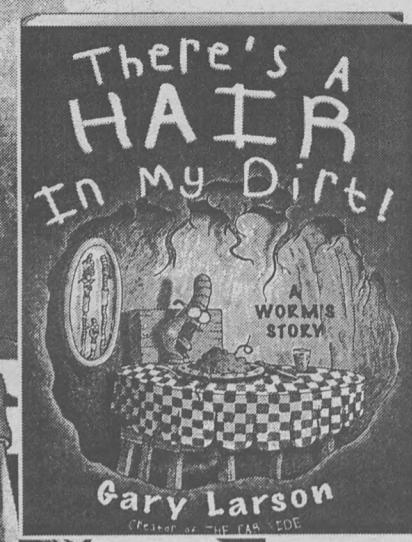
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Noisy finals

This finals time, your residence hall room may not provide much of a study haven. Bringing GW into the technology age will require workmen to drill, hammer and pound at the same time students will be studying, writing and praying.

But the good news is that plans to rewire students' rooms during finals have been shelved. Workers only will work in hallways. Good decision, but what a pain.

Wiring the halls definitely is a critical step to meeting the University's technology goals — goals shaped in part by student advocacy. However, students must have a quiet study environment. What good are cable and Internet connections next semester if students do poorly on final exams this semester?

When the construction began, students were assured workmen would not do their thing during reading days and finals. This plan changed when it became obvious work was falling behind schedule.

Add into the equation GW's housing lottery-time promise that if installation work was incomplete in the fall, students would not be charged for that semester's cable/Internet bills. It's amazing the speed at which work is done when GW risks losing profits.

So now students get to study under pressure — and under a barrage of noise in the hallways. Hope something good is on cable next semester to make up for all the noise and dust students will have endure while studying.

Death and reciprocity

Virginia executed Angel Francisco Breard, a Paraguayan national convicted of murdering an Arlington woman in 1992, late Tuesday night. The execution received international attention because the United States failed to honor the Vienna Convention requirement that a nation alert the embassy of a foreigner arrested on its soil. The embassy then may contact the defendant to observe that a fair trial is conducted. All signatory nations are expected to abide by this Convention tenant.

Though the United States failed to live up to its part of the agreement, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to stay Breard's execution. His trial and sentence were conducted as any American's would have been, the Court found. Thus, the failure of Virginia authorities to contact the Paraguayan embassy at the time of Breard's arrest did not interfere with his receiving a fair trial under U.S. law.

But the fact remains that the United States failed to abide by a significant international agreement. If a U.S. citizen found himself in a similar situation abroad — sentenced to death without the auspices and advice of American diplomats — outrage would erupt in Washington. So why is it different when a foreigner from a small Third World country is involved?

The failure of U.S. authorities to notify the Paraguayan embassy was a serious mistake. The United States would demand Convention compliance if its citizens met legal trouble abroad. Though the United States has a legal tradition based on open courts and the defendant's right to appeal, other nations do not. The actions taken by Virginia authorities and the subsequent outcome do not bode well for the tens of thousands of Americans abroad. If America turns a blind eye on its Convention responsibilities, little more can be expected of other nations.

The gw Hatchet

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Opinions

4 The GW Hatchet, Thursday, April 16, 1998

Letters/Op-ed Policy

Letters/Op-eds may be submitted either at the Hatchet office (2140 G St.) or by e-mail (hatchet@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu). All submissions must include the author's name, school year, phone number and should be typed, grammatically correct and concise. Deadlines for submissions are Friday by 5 p.m. for Monday's issue and Tuesday by 5 p.m. for Thursday's issue.

Letters to the Editor

Just say no

I am writing in response to the opinion piece "Nixing Barry deal is short-sighted" (p.5) in Monday's issue of The GW Hatchet.

I recall a "Simpsons" episode when Mr. Burns hires a contract killer to knock off Grandpa Simpson. He calls a hitman in South America and says, "Hello, this is M. B." The hitman responds, "Ahh, Marion Barry, is it time for another shipment already?"

This is the person who should be rewarded with a professorship? Some crackhead, political hack who has destroyed D.C.? I think the first issue that should be explored is why someone like this should be given a professorship at a prestigious university.

Of course, this really isn't a reward. The truth is that for all Marion Barry has done for D.C., he would be reelected to office without a doubt. This only highlights the idiocy (sorry, but it is true) of the D.C. electorate. The professorship is merely a tool to lure Barry away from D.C. government in the hopes of salvaging some kind of home rule for this city.

He was reelected after smoking crack, so obviously he has some political savvy. The thing is, his brand of political skills is not what students need to learn in college. He is the kind of politician that has caused most Americans to be disgusted with politics. Through graft, patronage and out-and-out illegal activities, he has gained a political stranglehold on this town. Does any university want its students learning these kind of tactics?

I have lived here in D.C. for four years and I must say I understand the need to get Barry out of office. And I understand the ease with which this proposed professorship would accomplish this goal. But going this route shows a complete disregard for the reputation of higher education as a whole and a complete lack of respect for all the good professors that didn't smoke crack.

—Chris Steinke
senior

Self-help

This is in regard to the story and editorial about GW advising that appeared in the April 13 issue of The Hatchet ("Columbian blues: Students pay for communications gap with advisors, p.1; "Advising blues," p.4).

Granted, advisors could be a lot more helpful. However, GW students need to take personal responsibility for their own education. After all, it is the student's name that appears on the diploma, not the advisor's.

I don't want to sound harsh, but if you can't get your requirements

straight, you really shouldn't be graduating. In the real adult world, you can't blame others for your lack of thoroughness and foresight.

Here are some tips that worked for me: 1.) read the Bulletin; 2.) ask the registrar or the dean's office; 3.) periodically check GWIS personal info and/or GWizard student info; 4.) get a balance sheet and an unofficial transcript.

We all need to become proactive, rather than reactive, so that potential disasters are avoided. It's just another part of the college experience, and the key to becoming an adult, both legally and morally.

—Maximillian Soong
senior

J Street distractions

In response to the "TV-free dinner" letter to the editor in The GW Hatchet April 9 (p.4), I would offer that, as students who are forced by the University to purchase meal plans until we have earned 60 credits, J Street is one of only two real dining halls where we can eat with these meals.

The creations that end up on our plates often contain uncooked meat, limp vegetables, badly piled sandwiches and/or left-over cake. Sometimes watching television is the only way to keep from blanching at the sight of the still-living animals or microwaved leaves sitting in front of us.

I would additionally tender that, while everyone who wishes has the right to eat in our beautiful dining hall, including high school students, the homeless and the spouses of faculty members, J Street was created for the students of GW. As a college student, I would guess that, on average, I watch one hour or less of television per week, as do many of us that have homework. Beyond that, the J Street televisions are more than half of the time tuned to CNN or to the GW channel, which shows school basketball games and Student Association meetings, hardly mindless entertainment.

Without the televisions at J Street, many of us would be subjected to the truly drudgerous task of trying to keep up a conversation while wading through a diner meal in order to get to the strawberry cake at the end of the rainbow — truly a mindless form of entertainment.

—Chris Shaw
sophomore

Silence is shameful

I want to thank the writer of the opinion piece "Public silence over Clinton is shameful," for his editorial in the April 6 edition of The GW Hatchet (p.4). The author expressed what I have been feeling for a long time.

The deafening silence that has

greeted Clinton's outrageous behavior is very saddening, especially from women's groups, such as the National Organization for Women. I would like to add that for those who believe they are taking a moral high ground when they claim the president's sex life is none of our business, they are mistaken. Clinton's behavior is not about sexual preferences or peccadilloes. This, like rape, is not about sex, but abuse. Clinton is abusing his power as a man and a world leader to violate women.

The right-wing conspiracy theory is an interesting one. That is if you believe that all these women had nothing better to do than turn their lives upside down. What woman (or man for that matter) wouldn't want to be raked over the coals by a relentless press and a vicious cadre of angry White House staffers?

As the writer clearly stated, our silence in this matter is shameful.

—Fatimah Balbed
program manager,
University Teaching Center

NOW not silent

This letter is in response to the opinion piece "Public silence over Clinton is shameful" in the April 6 Hatchet (p.5). As a GW student interning at the National Organization for Women, I felt compelled to respond to the comments about a lack of a feminist reaction to President Clinton over the past year. Many other news organizations have made similar claims recently, all of which are unfounded and unresearched.

NOW never has been silent on the issue of sexual harassment. In the case of Paula Jones, she was neither open, nor interested in NOW's support. NOW has issued several press releases concerning the president's sexual behavior as of late, criticizing his possible abuse of the "aphrodisiac of power" in relation to Monica Lewinsky and charging the president with sexual assault if Kathleen Willey's allegations are true.

Upon the dismissal of Ms. Jones' case, NOW released yet another statement reminding the country that this did not mean it was open season on women in the workplace. All of these statements and others can be found on the NOW Web site, <http://www.now.org>.

Furthermore, the National Organization for Women did not endorse the president in his 1992 or 1996 campaigns. For many feminists, myself included, he has certainly not proven himself a feminist during his tenure in office. Feminists are not ignoring the president's behavior; the media is ignoring feminists.

—Rebecca Kirkpatrick
senior

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**Internet2 offers speed, reliability**

from p. 1

States ... so research universities can work with each other on one end, and on the other end have the vast masses working together," Lavin said.

Internet2 is an important step in the Next Generation Internet program, a project that was introduced during President Bill Clinton's 1997 State of

the Union address and is slated to receive \$100 million in federal money annually for the next five years.

Gale said the project will start by speeding up intra-campus communications and then advance to links between campuses. Campuses, he said, could include universities, research campuses or corporations housed within large buildings.

Gale said Internet2 is in the same stage of development the current Internet was in its infancy 12 years ago. The program is still in the works, but Gale said the success of the Internet

means people are more receptive to the idea of a faster, more reliable network.

"People recognize the value now," Gale said. "The Internet has taught people, 'Hey, this is useful.'"

A fundamental difference between the Internet and Internet2 is the time the new program will take to reach maturity.

"The time between Internet2 being used in major research universities and it becoming a household word will be collapsed into a much shorter time span, probably three years," Gale said.

RHA, GW plan compromise

from p. 1

residents' concerns, but some sort of compromise needs to be reached."

Students described loud noises, moved furniture and paint chips in the rooms. They also were worried about possible asbestos and lead exposure.

Ingle said GW is paying close attention to environmental concerns.

"I'm glad they're asking students for their opinion," said Heather Rothman, RHA treasurer and a resident assistant in Thurston Hall. "It's an excellent compromise."

But some students were concerned the administration is not doing enough.

"As a student, I'm glad that some RHA representatives are not in support of the compromise," said Cat Ressler, a freshman in Crawford Hall. "I think they should send a form to stu-

dents—but (the administration is) afraid students will be informed for once."

Michael Peller, executive director of Student and Academic Support Services Administrative Services, said it would be impossible to completely suspend work because of University deadlines.

"We want to make sure that by the time you move in (next August), you'll be hooked up," Peller said.

Peller said he understands some students will not be happy with any inconvenience.

"If we can please a lot of people, I'll be happy," Peller said.

Lavella said some work in the residence halls during exam weeks is inevitable, but he said he is optimistic the administration will follow the guidelines they set forth Wednesday.

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as to where it was reinvented.**



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Daniel Vilmure

Novelist spins Southern yarns in English department

by Megan Stack
Features Editor

The Friday before Easter, Jenny McKean Moore Writer Daniel Vilmure was anticipating a quiet Sunday.

"I'd like to go to Easter brunch somewhere," he said. "Maybe a Mass at the National Cathedral."

Four days later, morning sun poured into Vilmure's office. He sat flanked by walls hung with Mardi Gras beads and Picasso posters.

"Easter was very good," he said. He chuckled, twisted his neck in mock shame, and confessed: "I actually ended up going to Atlantic City, pagan that I am."

At 32, Vilmure has published two novels, *Life in the Land of the Living* and *Toby's Lie*. He was born and spent his childhood in Tampa, Fla.

"I love Florida," he said. "I love all that tacky Miami stuff."

The youngest of seven in a Catholic family, Vilmure said he always wrote — it is an unbleachable part of his character. As a child, he hid in his parents' laundry room, and wrote in longhand.

"Ever since I was eight or nine," Vilmure said. "Anything. I would see a movie, come home and write a review."

Restless for fresh scenery after graduating from high school, Vilmure studied English literature at Harvard. He later earned a master's from Stanford, but called himself "more of a creative writer than an academic."

As GW's writer in residence, Vilmure teaches two classes. For GW undergraduates, he offers a semester's twirl with fiction writing.

"This is a way to stretch different muscles at a more advanced level," Vilmure explained. "It's a laboratory approach to experimental fiction."

The second course is a community class. Anybody can apply — and last semester almost 100 did — to join the 14-member group. Last semester, a man in his mid-80s sat next to students in their late teens during the "wildly diverse" seminar.

"It's free in every way," Vilmure explained. "There is no cost, there are no grades."

Vilmure originally came to GW with a specific plan for the workshop — he wanted to recruit gay students, and hoped to get some HIV-positive authors in the group.

"It would be, not an experiment exactly, but an experience," Vilmure explained. "I think writing can be an escape route for people with some darker issues, even if they don't write directly about the disease."

But the flurry of writing samples showed no pattern of sexuality. Vilmure dropped the idea and accepted the best writers. He is not sorry, although he hopes to revive the project someday, he said. His workshop has been too fulfilling to trade.



photo by Claire Duggan/senior photo editor

Vilmure stumbled upon the plot for his first published book while living in Tampa after graduating from Harvard. He was intrigued by a "wild, redneck kid" from his hometown, a teenager who took a five-finger discount on a bottle of liquor at a package store.

Making his way along the train tracks with the booze tucked into his pocket, he stumbled and fell. The bottle broke in his pocket, and the boy bled to death. Hometown storytelling preserved the teenager in collective memory, a mysterious figure infamous for his young and tragic death.

"I was always fascinated by that story," Vilmure said. "So in my typical ambulance-chasing way as a writer, I fictionalized it and constructed a novel around that."

The result was *Life in the Land of the Living*. He was spurred to begin the second novel, *Toby's Lie*, after watching a television news spot about a high school boy who wanted to dance with another boy at his senior prom. He "wrapped a novel around" the incident.

Right now, Vilmure is scribbling away at two new novels, but he refuses to describe them.

"If you tell people what your books are about they say 'oh, that's really cool,' and then you've got the rewards and you don't want to write as much," Vilmure said. "You've got to keep it in the bottle."

Details sneak out as he talks, though — both novels are "New Orleans books," one is a murder mystery set in the French Quarter.

"I adore New Orleans," he explained. "I like to think that I live in the same town as Walker Percy, as Kate Chopin — there are places I can visit in the city and somehow commune with literary history."

Over the years, Vilmure has paid visits — "pilgrimages" — to dead writers' homes, to the tombs that house their remains. He sought out Walker Percy's grave and Flannery O'Connor's hometown. He delighted in Zora Neale Hurston's grave, which crumbled, overgrown and forgotten, until Alice Walker pulled the weeds in the 1970s and pushed the black author from the brink of obscurity to bookshelves across the nation.

William Faulkner's isolated house-on-the-hill, according to Vilmure, still bears "the signs of an artist very much in his own space."

"All over the wall were notes — I think they were for *Requiem For a Nun*. He wrote it on the walls!" Vilmure remembered. "But the house is lonely, aloof, sad. It suited him."

When he wrote *Life in the Land of the Living*, Vilmure said, Faulkner's voice still played in his head.

"Faulkner casts a long shadow," Vilmure said. "I think there is actually a time in life when you need to shake him off."

Vilmure shares the Lenthall House with Mosheh, his "lover, partner, whatever the acceptable word is right now" of four years.

"We're positively ancient in gay circles, where they say four months is four years," Vilmure said.

He loves the 21st Street house, he said, although he has yet to adopt a writing room.

"I've been writing in the attic," Vilmure explained. "On the fourth floor I'm away from the boozing beat of the fraternity boys across the street."

He writes in the morning, Vilmure

explained, because dreams stir imagination. He still insists upon writing longhand, feeling the ink and paper in his fingers.

Vilmure was "knocked out" when he first saw Lenthall House as he pulled up in the car, he said. "It was this beautiful four-story house, and I decided that it must be haunted."

Curious about the home's history, Vilmure began to ask around about John Lenthall, its namesake. Oddly, nobody seemed to know.

Dumb luck stepped in, however, in the unlikely form of a souvenir book. In the gift shop of the Jefferson Memorial, Washington Ghost Stories caught Vilmure's eye.

"It was this slick, touristy paperback" Vilmure laughed. "Well, sure enough I couldn't resist, and there in the index was Lenthall's name."

According to Vilmure's book, Lenthall was the assistant to Benjamin Latrobe, the architect who built the Capitol building. But legend says the two quarreled throughout the project.

"And then one afternoon they were in the basement looking at a support column and fought about whether it was necessary or not," Vilmure recounted. "So Lenthall finally removed it and when he did the ceiling caved in and crushed him."

Vilmure waits a few dramatic beats.

"And his dying words were a curse on the city."

But Vilmure insisted he doesn't really believe in ghosts.

"Being a writer, I just thought that was a very romantic story," he explained.

Outside of his haunted haven, Vilmure is ambivalent about D.C. "I always think that D.C. stands for 'doesn't count,'" he explained. "It's not the North, it's not the South. The city is like a museum — full of wonderful things to look at, but like a container it is not in itself a unique place."

But he has enjoyed GW, he said, dubbing it a "Berkeley on the Potomac."

"The students here are very articulate, and not full of themselves, as students can be."

With the semester draining away, Vilmure is looking for another fellowship, pondering his next move. One of his workshop students contracted with Simon and Schuster to write children's books. Another was notified this week that she won \$4000 for a short story written in Vilmure's class.

But in the Lenthall House, Vilmure and Mosheh are collecting boxes, moaning at the thought of another move.

"We are sick to death of moving around," Vilmure confessed. "But that's the nature of academia."

Members of Vilmure's community workshop will read at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Rivaga Art Gallery, 1612 U Street.

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Major League: Back to the Minors dishes out low brow humor successfully.

Major League actors have a hard time keeping straight faces

by Alex Mestdagh
Weekend Writer

The venue was perfect. Planet Hollywood: a giant playground celebrating the grandness of cinema where adults and kids alike can escape the toil of reality.

Just the right place for actors Scott Bakula, Ted McGinley and Eric Bruskotter and director John Warner to fool around while entertaining questions from a bunch of college students about their latest project, *Major League: Back to the Minors*.

"Yeah, the money was good, and I needed a job," said Bruskotter jokingly in response as to why he signed on to the film. Bakula squeezed in between Warner and Bruskotter, the least giddy of the lot.

"The reality is for me, I wasn't interested in doing a part three of really anything. My agent just said to read the script. I read it - it was something different. My agent then told me this is a great script, but that the guy who wrote it is even better. 'He's going to direct the movie. He's getting hot in Hollywood. He's got a deal over at Dreamworks,'" Bakula said.

As Warner explained why he chose the minor leagues instead of the Majors, one of teen-group Hanson's songs began to bop. Immediately McGinley, in a squeaky mimicking voice, started singing along. "Wait boys, I'm going to sing with Hanson, I'll be back." The crew erupted.

During a five-city tour to promote the flick, the three actors and director couldn't stop the pranking. It was one joke after another. From McGinley describing his fantasies of Kathy Ireland, to Bruskotter joking at the possibility of a fourth *Major League*, this time set in Japan, the atmosphere was circus-like. The event, however,

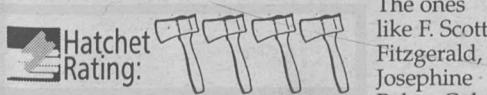
(See MCGINLEY, p. 10)

GW Department of Theatre and Dance provides an entertaining night of music, dance, culture

by Paul Labov
Weekend Writer

The GW Department of Theatre and Dance combines two dramatically different one act plays into an enjoyable evening.

"Paris When It Sizzled" is just another evening with those weird, whiny expatriates of the 1920s.

Hatchet Rating:  The ones like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Josephine Baker, Cole

Porter, Gertrude Stein and Ernest Hemingway.

Anyone who thinks they know them well, doesn't know them like this. Anyone who has heard their names but is unaware of their contributions to our culture, might want to see "Paris When It Sizzled." Then, one can be whisked away to a Parisian cafe to casually sip cappuccino while the expatriate characters do their thing.

The first play is set in a Parisian cafe in April 1926. Members of The Lost Generation all take their seats around the table and gossip about the times. As the evening progresses, each one takes the stage to either recite poetry or sing songs.

The most notable performances of the night include Josephine Baker (Kerri Washington), F. Scott Fitzgerald (Chris Hahn), Marilyn Miller (Stephanie

Braun) and Alberta Hunter (Claudia Alick).

A high point in the evening comes when Miller (Braun) tap dances to a song she executes beautifully note by note. As if this was not enough, Braun, who played Maggie in the GW production of "Lend Me a Tenor," sings with an intense passion and unmistakable conviction.

The premise behind "Paris When It Sizzled" is intriguing. "Paris was the place to be in the 1920s," said Leslie B. Jacobson, the writer and director. "Every actor got a character to play, and they had to research their character at a certain date in history."

The date was randomly chosen as April 1926. Research showed that at the time, some of the characters were friends, and some had not met. Jacobson strove to show how members of The Lost Generation affected each other, and how that effect was evident in their work. The cast of "Paris When It Sizzled" spent four weeks in improvisational workshops, seeking to make their interactions with the other characters believable. For the most part, it was a success.

The second play is not as innovative as the first. "L'Histoire du Soldat" is a re-creation of a well-known Russian tale by Igor Stravinsky. Using the orchestra, spoken word and dance, Stravinsky rivals the forces of creation, the soldier, versus the forces of destruction, the devil. Buttressing the production are seven members of the National

Major League blends slapstick and dialogue

by Alex Mestdagh
Weekend Writer

Sure the latest sequel pales in comparison to the original *Major League*. Sure even Charlie Sheen dodged signing on to this sequel. Sure the jokes are about as

Hatchet Rating: 

low brow as those in an Ernest movie. But keeping things in perspective and taking the film at face value, *Major League: Back to the Minors* succeeds.

Gus Cantrell (Scott Bakula, "Quantum Leap") is a burnt-out veteran minor league pitcher. Before Gus hits the showers for the last time, his buddy Roger Dorn (Corbin Bernsen, "L.A. Law"), owner of the Minnesota Twins, offers him a managing position with the Triple-A team South Carolina Buzz. And since Gus needs a job, he is only too happy to accept. Bakula moves from television to the silver screen rather smoothly. He has a soft arc with real emotions.

Gus arrives for the Buzz's spring training, where he is confronted by misfits instead of a minor league players: The guys can barely manage an inning without a mishap. Heading the bunch is catcher Rube Baker, (Eric Bruskotter, "Starship Troopers") who can hit, but can't throw to save his life.

The good-natured-but-clumsy ogre is joined by Pedro Cerrano (Dennis Haysbert), a Cuban voodoo outfielder whose antics are still worth a chuckle or two. During the course of the three *Major Leagues*, Pedro has gone from voodoo, to Buddhism and now to Christianity.

Tanaka (Takaaki Ishibashi, *Major League II*) is the non-English speaking Japanese player whose break from baseball to manage a putt-putt theme park has left a void in his life. And rounding out the lot of

mentionable characters are the two Cuban twins - a short stop and a second baseman.

Under Coach Gus, the oddballs shape up and start to gel. Pleased and surprised with the Buzz's winning streak, Roger summons Gus to Minnesota and goads him into an exhibition game between the Twins and the Buzz at the Metrodome.

The game ending in an unexpected draw, Gus ups the ante and challenges Twins' haughty manager Leonard Huff (Ted McGinley, "Married With Children") to a rematch between their teams. This time, though, the game is on the Buzz's home turf, with a gamble that can make or break Gus' career.

Major League: Back to the Minors at times moves like a 50-mile-an-hour fastball, but manages to sustain its overall momentum. Director John Warren's tight editing and right blend of slapstick and dialogue keep it going. Warren's use of catchy background score and combination of angles makes for smooth transitions between scenes.

Unlike many sequels, the film doesn't pretend to be something it's not. *Major League: Back to the Minors*, rightfully foregoes its hand at serious character and plot development, and sticks to visual pleasers and gags.

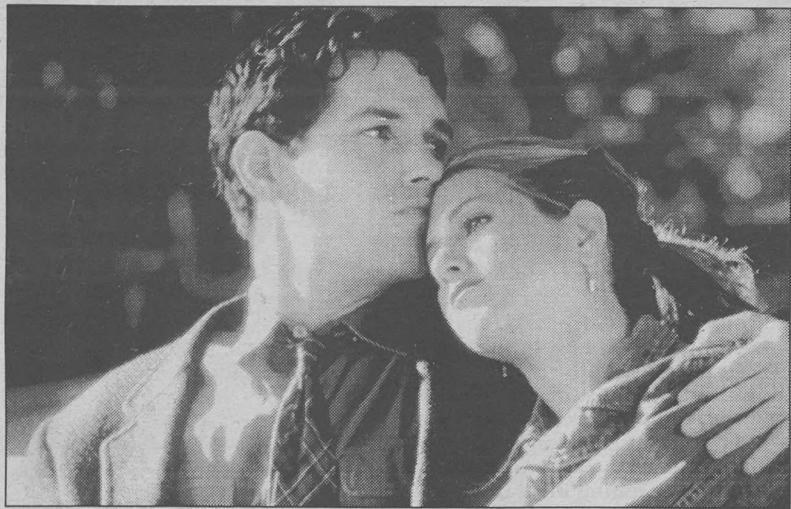
And indeed, the visual gags and one-liners are at almost every turn. Even the characters, each with their ridiculously-overblown idiosyncrasies, manage to strike a sympathetic note. The fact that these guys are underdogs is somewhat appealing. Unlike their predecessors, they're minor leaguers with no safety to fall back on if they don't succeed.

"They don't have to be the best nine guys in the world. They just have to work for the team," upbeat Gus says to his fumbling players. Although the actors are not the best ensemble, the fact that they gel covers up their inadequacies.

Major League: Back to the Minors opens Friday.



Paul Labov/Hatchet photographer
GW Department of Theatre and Dance presents two one act plays this weekend.



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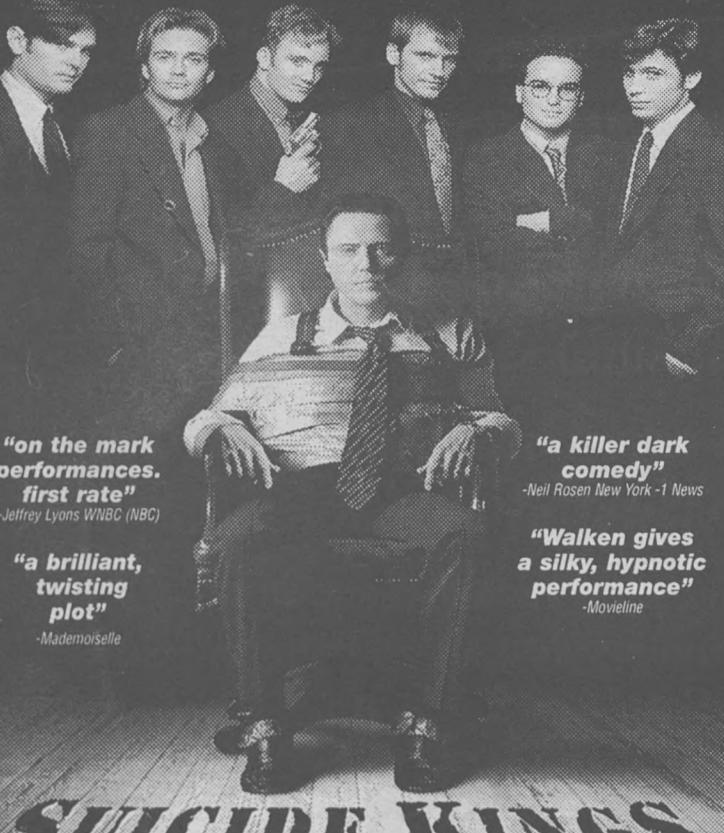
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Film breaks free from Hollywood romantic comedy stereotypes

by Laura Hertzfeld
Weekend Writer

Superb writing and talented stars elevate *The Object of My Affection* (Twentieth Century



Fox) beyond usual expectations for a romantic comedy.

Paul Rudd (*Clueless*) and Jennifer Aniston (*Picture Perfect*) star in the flick about a complex relationship in the 1990s. Rudd stars as George Hanson, a gay first-grade teacher. He directs musicals for a private New York City elementary school.

Aniston plays Nina Borowski, a Brooklyn social worker desperately trying to escape the *nouveau riche* lifestyle of her rich stepsister, Constance (Allison Janney, *Primary Colors*), and brother-in-law, Sidney (Alan Alda, *Flirting with Disaster*).

In a backward plot, George and Nina become close friends, and their relationship progresses.

George is dumped by his boyfriend, Dr. Robert Joley (Tim Daly, *Wings*). He then decides to move in with Nina in her Brooklyn walk-up. Nina's boyfriend, Vince McBride (John Pankow, *"Mad About You"*), a somewhat sleazy lawyer, is suspicious of the relationship between George and Nina.

When Nina becomes pregnant with Vinnie's child, however, the plot begins to shift. She realizes the meaning of family and sorts out her life. A few life-altering decisions result, making things interesting. Audiences can connect with this story line. The plot sticks to reality and avoids the sickeningly sweet stereotype of romantic comedies.

The issues the movie deals with – homosexuality, attraction, single motherhood – are not taken lightly, but are portrayed with optimism. *The Object of My Affection* works out the kinks and smoothes the plot, but still leaves the viewer with an understanding that things don't always work out the way one expects.

The chemistry between Rudd and Aniston works on screen, but

Aniston is obviously a television actress. Her delivery is superior to that in *Picture Perfect*, and her lines are more honest and less sappy.

Alda is irresistible as Nina's brother-in-law, a filthy-rich book contractor, but we do not see enough of him. Nigel Hawthorne (*The Madness of King George*) does well in his somewhat confusing role as Rodney Fraser, a college professor who lives vicariously through one of his students, Paul (Amo Gulinello).

The screenplay was written by Wendy Wasserstein, whose plays including *"The Heidi Chronicles"* and *"An American Daughter,"* won accolades on and off Broadway. Her words flow smoothly, and the dialogue is entertaining. However, several minor characters could be better developed.

The soundtrack is appropriate, but not memorable. Sting sings the focal song of the film, a nice rendition of "You Were Meant for Me." The other tracks are forgotten.

The Object of My Affection is now playing.

McGinley found character difficult to portray

from p. 9

was interspersed with short sober moments.

Switching to a more serious tone, McGinley noted the difficulty of his part. While the rest of the guys were bonding and constantly pulling for each other and preparing each other for the takes, McGinley, playing Bakula's nemesis, found the task of developing his character alone a difficult one.

"The hard thing for me was that these guys were all having fun. I look at the team picture and they're all out there together. And me, I'm by myself asking if I could have a team picture for my scrap book," McGinley said.

As for their true love for baseball, Bruskotter summed it best when he said, "Me, I don't like baseball, I don't even like to throw the ball around."

Warren seconded this with, "Yeah, me, I loved baseball too... until I stopped drinking."

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Big stars cannot save *My Giant* from faltering plot

by Jack D. Cohen
Weekend Writer

When one of the truly talented, funny actors in Hollywood reduces himself to a film that offers two hours of garbage, it's pathetic.

My Giant (Castle Rock/Columbia) is worse than boring – it's annoying.

The film boasts a handful of funny moments. All are included in the television previews.

Billy Crystal (*Deconstructing Harry*) plays Sammy, a talent agent whose career and marriage are on the verge of collapse. A near-fatal car wreck in the hills of Romania brings Sammy to a monastery where he meets Max.

Max is played by the 7-7 Gheorghe Muresan. (Yes, he's the same guy who plays basketball for the Washington Wizards.) Sammy decides he can make Max a movie star, so he drags him to America. To convince Max to go, Sammy promises he will be reunited with his long-lost love.

On their trek across the country, they encounter sleazy promoters and a horde of wrestling midgets. In Las Vegas they meet Steven Seagal (*Executive Decision*), who portrays himself. Seagal wants Max to be in his movie.

The audience learns that Max's love wants nothing to do with him, and that he has a fatal heart condition. The not-so-funny joke, "Have you ever seen an old giant?" is repeated.

numerous times.

In addition to Max's problems, Sammy is a highly disturbed individual who befriends a trusting, gentle giant just so he can exploit him in Hollywood.

As for the humor, Billy Crystal's usual antics, which are quite enjoyable, are lost in this awful film. Instead of sticking to his brand of humor, the film is dark and dreary.

Estelle Harris ("Seinfeld") delivers a wonderful Seinfeld-style punch line, which turns out to be the highlight of the film. Kathleen Quinlan (*Breakdown*) plays Serena, Sammy's wife. The perky and cute actress appears disturbingly old in the film.

Muresan has missed the entire NBA season due to a reported injury that occurred on the set of *My Giant*. Oddly enough, Muresan isn't such an awful actor for someone with no experience and a face that should never be on the big screen. He manages to capture the hearts of the audience much better than Crystal. He delivers his lines with such poignancy and innocence, it's hard not to become attached to the giant.

Since Crystal is a talented and well-liked guy in Hollywood, *My Giant* won't signal the end of his movie career. Crystal should return to the humor that made his characters so lovable in movies like *When Harry Met Sally* and *City Slickers*.

With *My Giant*, the closest thing Crystal will get to an Academy Award is hosting the show again. *My Giant* joins the group of dubious films that should be avoided at all costs.

My Giant is now playing



All are included in the television previews.

Billy Crystal (*Deconstructing Harry*) plays Sammy, a talent agent whose career and marriage are on the verge of collapse. A near-fatal car wreck in the hills of Romania brings Sammy to a monastery where he meets Max.

Max is played by the 7-7 Gheorghe Muresan. (Yes, he's the same guy who plays basketball for the Washington Wizards.) Sammy decides he can make Max a movie star, so he drags him to America. To convince Max to go, Sammy promises he will be reunited with his long-lost love.

On their trek across the country, they encounter sleazy promoters and a horde of wrestling midgets. In Las Vegas they meet Steven Seagal (*Executive Decision*), who portrays himself. Seagal wants Max to be in his movie.

The audience learns that Max's love wants nothing to do with him, and that he has a fatal heart condition. The not-so-funny joke, "Have you ever seen an old giant?" is repeated.

NSO enhances musical talent of cast

from p. 9

an artist. What must one sacrifice to experience true happiness? With the help of the NSO, the cast energetically puts forth this dilemma with hopes the struggle itself will yield an answer. Jacobson said of "L'His-toire du Soldat," "Think of the characters from Act I falling asleep and having this nightmare."

In the end, the old adage, "You can never go home again," stands true. Or does it? The only drawback, which is barely worth mentioning, is the ending. While it makes sense, it does drag on for a longer than necessary. This

lengthiness, however, is overshadowed by superb acting talent and thrilling music.

The NSO promises to deliver a powerful mix of music perfectly in tune with the actors' song and dance capabilities. The theater department successfully brings together two different cultures in two different plays for one night of entertainment.

—Stacey Felsen contributed to this report.

"Paris When It Sizzled" and "L'His-toire du Soldat" play in the Dorothy Betts Marvin Theatre April 16-18 at 8 p.m. and April 19 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and \$8 for students.

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Entertainment Listings

MOVIES

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As Good As It Gets (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. 5:00, 10:15
Mon.-Thurs. 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

Mercury Rising (R)
Fri.-Sun. 5:00, 10:30
Mon.-Thurs. 5:15, 10:30

The Odd Couple II (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. 2:15, 5:30, 7:30,
10:00
Mon.-Thurs. 6:00, 8:15, 10:20

Titanic (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. 1:45, 5:30, 9:30
Mon.-Thurs. 5:30, 9:30

My Giant (PG)
Fri.-Sun. 2:15, 8:00
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00

The Object of My Affection (R)
Fri.-Sun. 2:00, 5:15, 8:00,
10:30
Mon.-Thurs. 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

City of Angels (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. 2:00, 5:15, 7:45,
10:15
Mon.-Thurs. 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Primary Colors (R)
Fri.-Sun. 1:45, 7:30
Mon.-Thurs. 7:40

Lost in Space (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. 1:45, 5:00, 7:45,
10:30
Mon.-Thurs. 5:15, 7:50, 10:30

Major League: Back to the Minors (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun. 2:15, 5:30, 7:45,
10:00
Mon.-Thurs. 5:45, 7:50, 10:00

AMC Union Station
50 Massachusetts Ave.,
N.E.
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Titanic (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. 12:00, 4:00, 8:10,
12:00
Sun.-Thurs. 1:00, 5:00, 9:00

City of Angels (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. 1:10, 4:45, 7:20,
10:10, 12:30
Sun.-Thurs. 1:30, 5:00, 7:30,
10:00

Players Club (R)
Fri.-Sat. 12:40, 3:00, 5:30,
7:55, 10:20, 12:45
Sun.-Thurs. 1:00, 3:20, 5:40,
8:00, 10:20

Object of My Affection (R)
Fri.-Sat. 12:20, 2:50, 5:20,
7:50, 10:20, 12:50
Sun.-Thurs. 12:15, 2:50, 5:15,
7:40, 10:10

Major League: Back to the Minors (R)
Fri.-Sat. 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00,
10:20, 12:40
Sun.-Thurs. 1:00, 3:20, 5:40,
8:00, 10:20

Primary Colors (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 7:30

My Giant (PG)
Fri.-Sat. 5:00
Sun.-Thurs. 5:10

Mercury Rising (R)
Fri.-Sat. 1:00, 10:20, 12:40
Sun.-Thurs. 12:30, 2:50,
10:30

Lost in Space (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. 1:40, 4:30, 7:20,
10:10, 12:50
Sun.-Thurs. 2:00, 5:00, 7:50,
10:30

Species II (PG-13)
Fri.-Sat. 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15,
10:30, 12:40
Sun.-Thurs. 1:15, 3:30, 5:45,
8:15, 10:30

Paulie (PG)
Fri.-Sat. 12:50, 3:00, 5:20,
7:40, 10:00, 12:10
Sun.-Thurs. 1:10, 3:20, 5:40,
7:50, 10:00

Cineplex Odeon Dupont Circle
1350 19th St. N.W.
333-FILM #792

Butcher Boy (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:40, 4:30, 5:00,
7:00, 7:30, 9:30, 10:00

Love and Death on Long Island (PG-13)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:00, 3:05, 5:10,
7:15, 9:20

The Big One (PG-13)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:10, 3:15, 5:20,
7:25, 9:40

Good Will Hunting (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:20, 4:10, 7:10,
9:50

Sliding Doors (PG-13)
Sat. 7:30

Cineplex Odeon Wisconsin Avenue
4000 Wisconsin Ave.,
N.W.
333-FILM #789

The Object of My Affection (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:30, 4:10, 6:50,
9:30

Species II (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:20, 3:30, 5:40,
7:55, 10:10

The Odd Couple II (PG-13)
Fri.-Sun., Tues., Thurs. 1:00,
3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
Mon., Wed. 1:00, 3:15, 10:00

Mercury Rising (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:50, 4:30, 7:10,
9:55

Lost in Space (PG-13)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:40, 4:20, 7:00,
9:40

City of Angels (PG-13)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:10, 4:00, 7:20,
9:50

Cineplex Odeon Tenley
4200 Wisconsin Ave.,
N.W.
333-FILM #791

Grease (PG)
Fri.-Wed. 7:20, 9:50
Thurs. 9:50

My Giant (PG)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:50, 4:00

Paulie (PG)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:30, 3:30, 5:30,
7:30, 9:30

Major League: Back to the Minors (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:40, 2:40, 5:40,
7:40, 9:40

Cineplex Odeon West End 1-4
23rd and L streets N.W.
333-FILM #794

Lost in Space (PG-13)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:20, 4:00, 7:00,
9:40

Mercury Rising (R)
Fri.-Mon., Wed. 1:50, 4:45,
7:20, 10:00
Tue., Thurs. 1:50, 4:45, 10:00

The Big Lebowski (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:40, 4:20, 6:50,
9:30

Nightwatch (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:30, 4:10, 7:10,
9:50

Cineplex Odeon Uptown
3426 Connecticut Ave.,
N.W.
333-FILM #799

Primary Colors (R)
Fri.-Thurs. 1:00, 4:00, 7:00,
9:45

Cineplex Odeon Foundry
M St. at Thomas
Jefferson, N.W.
333-FILM #827

The Apostle (PG-13)
Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 4:00, 6:50,
9:40
Sat.-Sun. 1:10, 4:00, 6:50,
9:40

Afterglow (R)
Fri., Mon.-Thurs. 4:30, 7:05,
9:35
Sat.-Sun. 2:00, 4:30, 7:05,
9:35

Live Flesh (R)
Fri. 4:00, 9:40
Sat. 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:20
Sun. 1:30, 6:40, 9:20
Mon.-Wed. 4:20, 6:40, 9:20
Thurs. 9:20

Wag the Dog (R)
Fri., Mon.-Wed. 4:40, 7:10,
9:45
Sat.-Sun. 2:10, 4:40, 7:10,
9:45
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UPD, MPD investigate early-morning robbery

from p. 1

An off-duty MPD officer was stationed inside the garage at the time of the robbery. But because the robbery occurred off campus, no emergency police phones were nearby when Senders was robbed, preventing him from calling for help.

UPD Associate Director Anthony RoccoGrande said no attempts have been made to put an emergency phone near Columbia Plaza because that would mean gaining permis-

sion to put the device on property that is not GW-owned.

So far, the police investigation does not suggest the suspect is a GW student, according to UPD.

"We (UPD officers) are looking at all the other reports involving robberies and seeing if we can see a connection," RoccoGrande said. "We'll use whatever tactics and strategies we need to try to come to closure on this."

RoccoGrande stressed the need to arrest the offender so "there will not be too many robberies like this in the future, and so we can try to keep this type of character off the campus and out of the District of Columbia."

Nine robberies, armed and unarmed, were reported on campus in 1996, according to UPD records.

"Fortunately we do not have a rash of armed robberies," RoccoGrande said. "But we are very concerned when it happens. And hopefully there will not be too many in the future."

"I was really surprised because people walk back from there alone at much later hours," Senders said. "I was only a block from where I live. It wasn't like I was going to call the escort service."

"I think people really shouldn't feel unsafe around the general campus," he said. "It's when you go across 23rd Street you find problems."

Victims of street robbery should comply with muggers when approached, according to UPD.

"It is best to give them your wallet and your purse rather than offer any resistance," RoccoGrande said.

Senders said the University administration has been helpful, quickly replacing his GWORLD card without questions.

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"A Little Bit of Hard Work for an Experience of A Lifetime"

Trachtenberg heads a University on the rise

from p. 1

"Whether it's in scholarship or classroom instruction, we've got winners," he said. He proudly rattles off numerous accolades won by GW professors.

He said even when GW loses faculty members, they go to Ivy League-caliber schools.

A winning faculty and student body have brought GW well-deserved recognition, Trachtenberg said. He said he is proud of how the Colonials' basketball teams have grown, but is quick to reject the notion that athletic success has provided the sole boost to national visibility.

"If that's all you had, you'd have UNLV," Trachtenberg said, citing the University of Nevada-Las Vegas as a school with a reputation for good sports teams and poor academics.

During the past 10 years, both the men's and women's basketball teams have risen from obscurity to national recognition after successful NCAA Tournament runs.

"We take as our model institutions ... that demonstrate it is possible to have outstanding collegiate athletics at the same time you are an outstanding academic institution."

Trachtenberg said he loves national visibility for the University and knows basketball can bring it. But the men's basketball team brought a swarm of negative publicity in the summer of 1995 — when GW recruited controversial basketball star Richie Parker.

Trachtenberg looks back on the situation and sees errors not in what he did, but how he did it.

Parker, a convicted sex offender, was recruited by the Colonials basketball program after Seton

Hall University revoked his scholarship offer.

NCAA regulations prevented GW officials from telling an interested national audience about the situation.

"I probably was too concerned with observing the NCAA rules, which prohibited public discussion of what we were doing and why we were doing it," Trachtenberg said.

"That made us appear secretive. The truth was what we were doing was upright and virtuous," he said.

GW had a good story to tell, Trachtenberg said, but he and other University officials couldn't tell it. He said if he could relive the situation, he would have held a press conference to explain the University's position, even if it meant facing NCAA sanctions.

Trachtenberg said he thought the sanction imposed by the NCAA would have been to prohibit Parker from playing his freshman year, which GW planned to do anyway.

"We were going to do of our own volition what the NCAA probably would have done to us had we gone public," he said. "It's one of those situations where it would have been better to have violated the rules than to have stuck with them."

Trachtenberg said he did what he always had been taught to do — follow the rules. He tried to deflect criticism by offering a full scholarship to Parker's alleged sexual abuse victim.

The following month, however, GW was forced to drop Parker's candidacy for admission because pressure was mounting.

Parker currently attends Long Island University and his alleged victim did not accept the scholarship.

Trachtenberg said he would

recruit Richie Parker again today — but do it smarter.

"If I did it smarter, I don't think I'd have to go through all that I went through," he said. "I took a lot of abuse from people who were skeptical about my motives and how I was proceeding, whereas I felt virtuous but couldn't talk about it."

Trachtenberg said he is happy to say the University has grown during the past decade, but he puts the achievements in perspective. He cannot look at success without seeing room for improvement.

"Advancing universities is a perpetual enterprise," Trachtenberg said. "One is always

pursuing a receding horizon. No matter how good this institution gets, it always is inspired to get better."

Monday: GW in 1998 — balancing tuition with services

Next Thursday: What the future holds for GW and Trachtenberg

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2:30 PM	MARVIN CENTER	COLONIAL COMMONS (2nd floor)
4:30 PM	MARVIN CENTER	COLONIAL COMMONS (2nd floor)
6:30 PM	MARVIN CENTER	COLONIAL COMMONS (2nd floor)

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Sports

Baseball in 1998 should be a great season for fans

I am really excited about the 1998 Major League Baseball season.

pro baseball Okay, I am always pretty excited when the baseball season gets started. And I'll probably be unexcited about 100 games into the season. And I'll probably be excited again when the playoffs roll around.

But right now, I am really ecstatic about baseball and here are a few of the reasons why you should be too:

I won five dollars!

Maybe that's not a great reason for you to be excited, but before the season really even gets underway, I have a sure bet in my pocket. An editor at The Hatchet (to protect his identity, let's call him Tyson) bet me five dollars that Mark McGwire is going to hit 70 home runs this season.

Just to clarify, that's a seven, followed by a zero.

Not to take away from the power hitting of the St. Louis Cardinals' McGwire, but hitting 70 homers is about as likely as the Wizards making the playoffs and the Capitals winning the Stanley Cup.

I am pretty sure that this person knows nobody has hit 60 since Roger Maris hit 61 in 1961. At least I hope he knew that when he made the bet.

Anyway, my personal benefit aside, watching the stars of the game chase after one of the most elusive records in baseball definitely will be entertaining again this season. McGwire and Ken Griffey Jr. should be getting used to fan and media pressure to break Maris' record, so this year might be one of their best chances to make baseball history.

The NL East

Yeah, it's just one division, but the dynamics of the National League East should be interesting to follow during the 162-game schedule.

Maybe I am a little biased because I am a Phillies fan, but I have a feeling the NL East will be a knock-down, drag-out fight all season and that the intra-division series should be gems. After all, Philadelphia just took three of four games from Atlanta last weekend, and not too many baseball analysts would have predicted that.

The Braves are good, as always. The New York Mets should be good as well behind both a solid starting lineup and a talented pitching staff. The Phillies, one of the youngest teams in baseball, are on their way up after residing near the cellar of the division since their 1993 World Series appearance.

Montreal, which is off to a slow start (3-9 through Tuesday), is once again young and talented and can't be counted out of the wild-card chase. And even after dumping most of its team in the off-season, Florida should toughen up behind the play of veterans like Bobby Bonilla and Gary Sheffield who will try to save face for the team.

Devil Rays and Diamondbacks

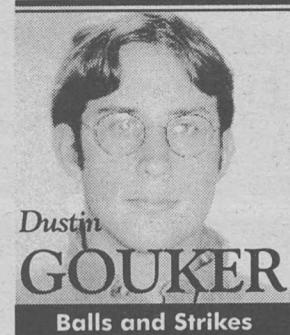
In case you didn't know, these are the mascots for the two expansion teams that joined Major League Baseball this season.

In an era in which professional teams are running out of good and/or imaginative nicknames (i.e. the Wizards, the Panthers), these two teams are really bucking the trend.

All kidding aside, the addition of two new teams in baseball is fantastic considering the success of the last two expansion teams (the Marlins, who won the 1997 World Series, and the Rockies, who consistently feature one of the most explosive offenses in baseball).

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays are off to a good start at 7-5 behind the hot hitting of Quinton McCracken (.415) and Rich Butler (.379), and, while the Arizona Diamondbacks have started slowly (2-12), look for them to improve throughout the season behind the veteran leadership of Matt Williams, Jay Bell and Devon White.

-Dustin Gouker



Dustin GOUKER
Balls and Strikes

Upcoming Games

Thursday

B at Howard-7 p.m.

Friday

MT at A-10 Champ.*
WT at A-10 Champ.*
G at Temple Invit.

Saturday

B at La Salle-12 p.m. (DH)
MT at A-10 Champ.*
WT at A-10 Champ.*
Crew at SIRAs**

Sunday

B at La Salle-12 p.m.
MT at A-10 Champ.*
WT at A-10 Champ.*
MR at Cherry Blossom Tourn.†

B-baseball
MR-men's rugby
MT-men's tennis
WT-women's tennis
(DH)doubleheader
*at Va. Tech

**Oak Ridge, Tenn.
†on the Mall

GW baseball team routs UMBC

Colonials get 19 hits, win fifth-straight game

by **Dave Mann**
Sports Editor

The GW baseball team overwhelmed the University of Maryland-Baltimore County 11-3 Wednesday at Barcroft Park for its fifth-consecutive win.

baseball The Colonials decimated UMBC pitching with 19 hits in improving to 25-12 on the season. Senior Cassedy Smith delivered the big hit in the fourth inning as he knocked a grand slam over the centerfield fence to give GW an 8-0 lead.

Three Colonial pitchers limited UMBC (7-27) to eight hits. Freshman Bryan Beggs (2-2) started and pitched five shutout innings to get his second win as a Colonial. Smith went 2-for-4, scored a run and drove in five.

GW scored three runs on six hits to knock out UMBC starter Jeff Fraley, who lasted only two innings. In all, UMBC used seven pitchers.

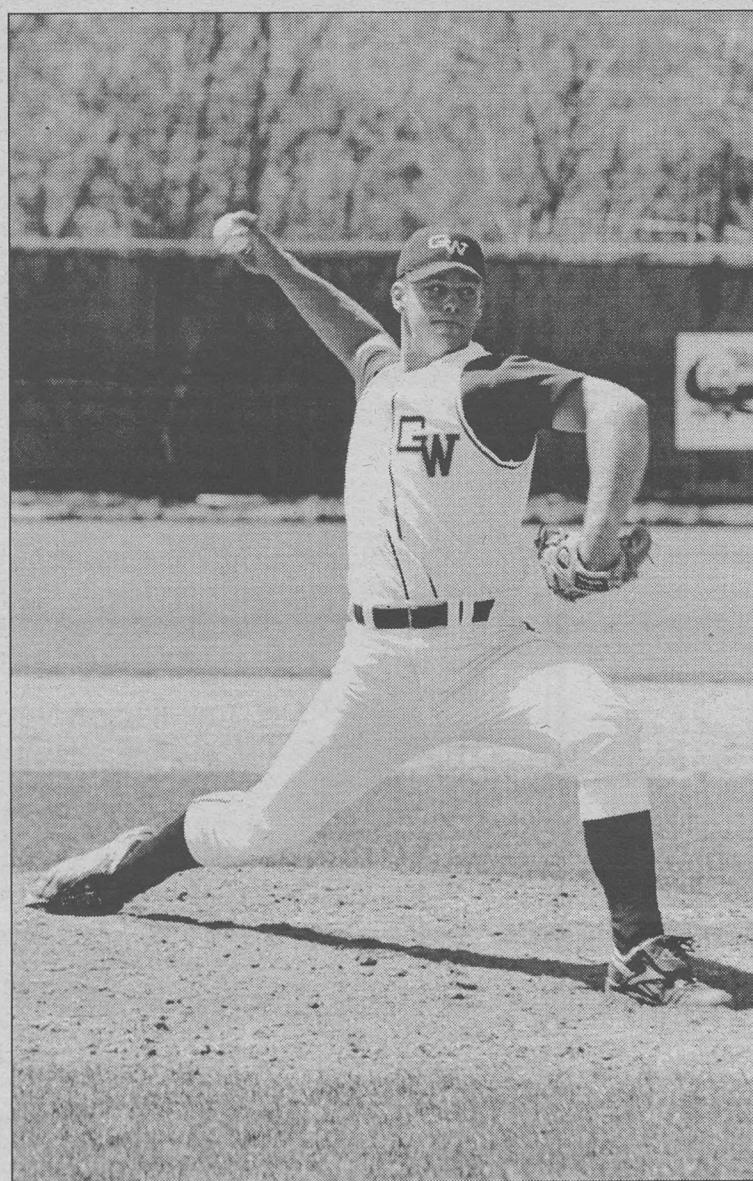
Joe Beichert opened the scoring with an RBI-single in the first inning, scoring Rob Ingwer (3-for-3, two runs scored). The Colonials scored two more runs in the second inning and another in the third to take a 4-0 lead before Smith broke open the game.

GW plated another two runs in the fifth. The Retrievers scored all three of their runs in the top of the sixth inning.

Four Colonials had three hits in the game, including Beichert, who also scored two runs and had two RBIs.

GW plays at Howard University Thursday at 7 p.m. and plays a three-game series at La Salle this weekend.

In addition, junior lefthander Tom Baginski was named Atlantic 10 Pitcher of the Week for the second-straight week Monday. Baginski struck out a career-high 17 batters in defeating Dayton Sunday. Baginski is 4-3 on the season.



Josh Prezant/Hatchet photographer

Bryan Beggs pitched five innings, struck out five and allowed no runs in earning a win over UMBC Wednesday.

GW 11, UMBC 3

	R	H	E
UMBC	000	003	000
GW	121	421	00x

WP: Bryan Beggs (2-2)
LP: Jeff Fraley
2B: Brian Thrash (UMBC), Rob Ingwer (GW), Ted Currie (GW), Joe Beichert (GW), Eric Mitchell (GW)
3B: none
HR: Cassedy Smith (GW)
SB: Beichert (GW), Smith (GW)

Tennis teams prepare for A-10s

After inconsistent regular seasons, tennis teams ready for tourney

by **Dave Mann**
Sports Editor

After completing inconsistent regular seasons this week, the GW men's and women's tennis teams are preparing for the Atlantic 10 Championships, which begins Friday at Virginia Tech.

The men's team ended its regular season with a 6-1 loss at American University Saturday. The Colonials last scheduled match against Old Dominion University Tuesday was canceled. The GW men are 6-14 heading into the A-10 Championships.

The women's team, which placed second in last year's A-10 Championships, finished its regular season with a 5-4 loss at Georgetown University Monday. The Colonial women are 6-11 this season.

"I think we can take second place again, as long as we stay focused," women's tennis head coach Tracy Tooke said of the A-10 Championships. "Our talent goes without speaking. We just have to show up ready to fight, and we will."

Tooke said Massachusetts, Temple and host Virginia Tech will be the Colonial women's biggest competition at the championships, which conclude Sunday.

The GW women will once again play

without number one player Helen Andrews, who has missed much of the season with a protruding disc. Tooke said she had hoped to get a medical red-shirt for Andrews, but Andrews was ineligible because she had played in 20 percent of the team's matches in the fall season.

Junior Julie Kim replaced Andrews at the number one singles position and had an inconsistent spring. Kim is 6-11 in singles competition this year, 4-11 as the top singles player and has won her last two matches.

"Julie has really battled back this spring," Tooke said. "When she gets it together and keeps it together, she can beat almost any number one player."

Holly Huntley has had a solid spring season for GW playing at the number three and four singles positions. Huntley is 10-6 in singles competition this season and is 5-0 playing doubles with Sarine Weingarten. Huntley was named the team's Most Valuable Player Wednesday.

"Holly has a lot of energy and has definitely kept the team's spirits up," Tooke said.

The GW women suffered through a tough stretch earlier in the spring, losing eight consecutive matches at one point. The Colonial women broke the losing streak with an 8-4 win at American April 8 but then fell to N.C. State University 5-4 at home two

days later. The team beat the Air Force Academy 6-3 Saturday.

"We went through a miserable stretch but built some momentum the last couple of matches," Tooke said. "With each match, we've gotten a lot tougher mentally."

The men's team finished third at last year's A-10 Championships and is seeded third again going into this year's tournament. Anders Bergkvist, who has compiled a 10-7 singles record at the number one and two positions, said he believes the men's team could finish in the top two or three at the A-10 Championships. He said the toughest competition would come from Temple and three-time defending champion Virginia Tech.

"We're excited for A-10s. We've got a shot at doing well," Bergkvist said. "It would be great to send off the seniors with an A-10 title."

The men's team has also had an inconsistent season. The team won three-straight matches March 31 through April 5, easily defeating Howard University, Duquesne and St. Bonaventure. However, the Colonials enter the championships on a three-match losing streak, with the latest defeat coming at American Saturday.

Bergkvist said the team has been playing better, though, and expects to play well at the A-10 Championships.

Young GW golf team struggles at A-10 tourney

by Dustin Gouker
Sports Editor

If the Atlantic 10 Men's Golf Championship at Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, Pa. had been the last competition for the GW golf team, it would have been a very bad way to end the season.

The Colonial golfers finished in ninth place (976) at the three-day, 54-hole conference tournament, held April 12-14, in one of their worst performances of the year.

"It (Southpointe) is very tight and there are a lot of out of bounds and water, so it was tough to keep the ball in play," Coach Scott Allen said of the par-72 course. "We're a young team, and young golfers tend to hit a lot of drivers and go after pins, and you can't do those things on a course like that."

GW's season, though, did not end with the poor performance at the A-10 Championship. The Colonials still have four tournaments remaining, including the prestigious District II

Championships in May.

GW finished well behind Xavier (903), which overcame a two-stroke deficit on the final day to win its first-ever A-10 Championship and edge two-time defending champion Virginia Tech (904).

For GW, each round of golf was a struggle, although the team improved each day. After the first day of competition, GW was just four strokes out of last place after shooting a combined 333, 26 strokes off the pace set by Xavier. The low Colonial score for the

day was an 81 by freshman Mike Goldman, while senior co-captain Luis Barrutieta shot the team's high score of 88.

"He (Barrutieta) was able to pick up a lot of strokes with smart play and his short game but he hit the ball horribly," Allen said. "He hasn't been able to find any consistency."

GW improved with a team score of 324 on the second day, led by a 76 by freshman Darren Ressler and a 79 by Goldman. The two freshmen ended the tournament in a tie for 27th

and were GW's highest finishers.

"On the bright side, I've got a lot of our younger guys getting experience in college competition," said Allen. "This has really turned into a rebuilding year for us."

The Colonials improved to a 319 on the final day and were led by freshman Ryan Day's third-round 78 – his best score as a Colonial.

"I wasn't pleased with the results, but I was pleased with all the guys scrapping it out and not giving up," Allen said.

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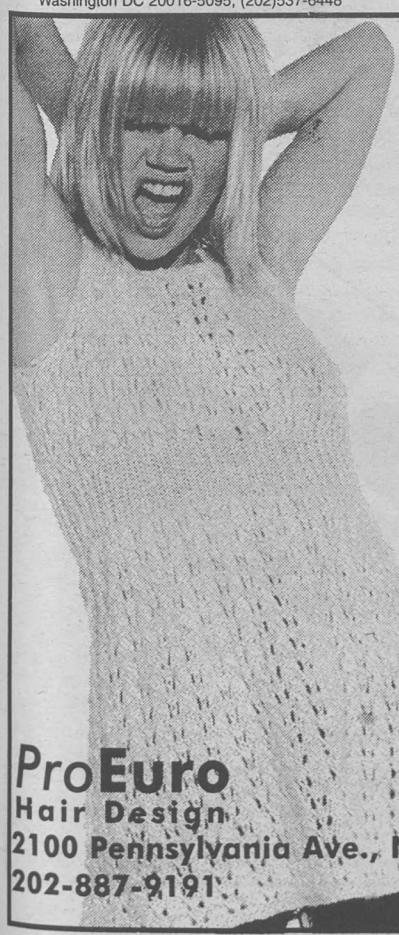
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